have been able to find a happy asylum in what they had been to
their homeland. Contern - [illegible] -

The Cttee did not appear to be aware of the practical conditions
which prevailed particularly in that part of the Country. The proposed reforms
were inspired by doctrinaire theories and not dictated by practical problems

The speaker regretted that the mirasdars had not gathered
there in their thousands, as they should, because their very continuance
was at stake.

He said that the maximum holding envisaged by the Cttee would be
thoroughly uneconomic and no mirasdar could maintain himself
and his family on the income derived from it. Agriculture was
as much a profession as any other, and must be paying for those
depended on it. It was a notorious fact that even today only those
who had earned money in other walks of life and saved the capital
necessary to invest on land, were in a position to increase the
productivity of the land.

He said that in the matter of fixation of fair rents regard must
be had to existing levels. Fixing them at an arbitrary level of 45% was
thoroughly unfair and the penalty proposed for transgression was
absurd. Here the M. Govt trying to steal the thunder from the Communists
He suggested that Govt should first concentrate on reclaiming
waste lands and bringing them under cultivation and on ~~settling~~
settling the landless labourers. He hoped that atleast in this
instance, Govt would respond to popular demand and drop the
so-called reform.

~~R~~ural economy would be ruined if such schemes were
given effect to.

He pointed out that the middle class mirasdar formed the
backbone of agriculture in this part of the Country. His economic
position must first be examined before any reforms were rushed
through. Today this class was heavily indebted. Steps must be taken to
wipe off this indebtedness. A depression in land value would hit
this class most.

He criticised the maximum unit of cultivation proposed by the Cttee
(the Rs 50 kist area). He said that the fixation of 10 to 15 mas of lands as the
maximum lease for an individual tenant, was unfair. Leasing to a tenant
depended on trust and the mirasdar could not be forced to distribute the
lands to the tenants in the village irrespective of their trustworthiness.

If the Congress was out to adopt the Communist doctrine on property,
why should the Congress be supported in preference to Communists? The
Cong. should stand or fall by its own ideals.

He said that the middle-class mirasdars — those paying
between Rs 250 and Rs 1000 in kist — were heavily in debt. The
prevailing higher prices of paddy had not benefitted this class. Since
the proposed reforms would help neither the tenant nor the landlord,
the reforms ought to be rejected <u>in toto</u>. The mirasdars must be
alive to their own interests and choose the best candidates in the
forthcoming elections.

He said that it <u>was admitted on all hands</u> that there was a
first-class food crisis in the Country. There was nothing in the report
which would help to solve this crisis. Far from doing it, the
contemplated reforms would definitely hamper production.
If the reforms were effected, the intelligent section of the people depending
on land would be forced to leave it. Today the condition of agriculture

... my wife, ... me to re...